

CLAIMS:

1. A medical device programmer comprising a first housing member, a second housing member, and a plate member attached to the second housing member, wherein the plate member includes a transparent area that exposes a display for viewing, and the plate member is printed with information to identify a programmer type associated with the neurostimulator programmer.
2. The programmer of claim 1, wherein the plate member is printed to include personalization information to identify a patient.
3. The programmer of claim 1, wherein the plate member is printed to include personalization information to identify a clinic.
4. The programmer of claim 1, wherein the plate member is printed with graphic information.
5. The programmer of claim 1, wherein the plate member is printed with text information.
6. The programmer of claim 1, wherein the plate member is molded to define one or more apertures to accommodate buttons extending outward from the programmer.
7. The programmer of claim 1, wherein the second housing member defines an aperture for access to a software loading port, the plate member being sized to cover the aperture upon placement of the plate member on the second housing member.
8. The programmer of claim 7, wherein the software loading port is a JTAG port.
9. The programmer of claim 1, wherein the plate member is selected from one of a plurality of plate members having different configurations based on a match between the

configuration of the plate member and a type of neurostimulator programmer being assembled.

10. The programmer of claim 9, wherein the plate member configuration comprises a size, a shape, a printed graphic, and a number of apertures to accommodate input buttons extending outward from the programmer.

11. The programmer of claim 1, further comprising an infrared interface to receive changes to software executed by a processor within the programmer during an infrared communication session.

12. The programmer of claim 1, further comprising power control circuitry to reduce input voltage to a predetermined level to minimize noise levels within the programmer.

13. The programmer of claim 1, wherein the display is a liquid crystal display.

14. The programmer of claim 1, further comprising a first circuit board and a second circuit board substantially enclosed within the first housing member and the second housing member.

15. The programmer of claim 14, wherein the first circuit board includes telemetry circuitry and the second circuit board includes the display and display circuitry.

16. The programmer of claim 15, wherein the second circuit board includes control circuitry to drive the telemetry circuitry and the display circuitry.

17. The programmer of claim 15, wherein the first circuit board includes an internal antenna.

18. A method for assembling a programmer for a medical device, the method comprising:

enclosing a first circuit board and a second circuit board within a first housing member and a second housing member;

selecting a plate member from one of a plurality of plate members having different configurations based on a match between a configuration of the plate member and a type of programmer being assembled; and

placing the plate member within the second housing member of the programmer.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the plate member includes a transparent area that exposes a display for viewing.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the plate member is printed with information to identify the programmer type.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein the plate member comprises a shape to match the type of programmer.

22. The method of claim 18, wherein the plate member comprises a size to match the type of programmer.

23. The method of claim 18, wherein the plate member comprises a printed graphic to match the type of programmer.

24. The method of claim 18, wherein the plate member comprises printed text to match the type of programmer.

25. The method of claim 18, wherein the plate member comprises a plurality of apertures to accommodate a plurality of input buttons extending outward from the programmer.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the plate member comprises no apertures.
27. The method of claim 25, wherein the second housing member defines an aperture for access to a software loading port, the method further comprising:  
loading instructions into memory on one of the first and second circuit boards via the loading port; and  
placing the plate member to cover the aperture.
28. The method of claim 27, wherein the software loading port is a JTAG port.
29. The method of claim 27, further comprising selecting the instructions based on one of a plurality of different functional sets desired for the programmer.
30. The method of claim 18, further comprising assembling the components of the programmer using a z-axis technique by which the components are stacked on top of one another.
31. The method of claim 18, further comprising coupling an external antenna to the programmer via a cable.
32. The method of claim 18, further comprising mounting a display on a side of the second circuit board opposite the first circuit board.